Conference on agricultural production

2760. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether severe drought in several States and the lower acreage in wheat, rice and pulses will have adverse impact on foodgrains in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether this matter was discussed during the two days conference held with the State Agriculture Secretaries, Vice Chancellors of agricultural universities and senior officials of the Union Ministries;

(c) if so, what suggestions were made in the conference; and

(d) the steps being considered to increase agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. As per advance estimates, the production of wheat, rice and pulses is likely to be lower during the year 2000-2001 as compared to the preceding year. No estimates have yet been made for production of these crops for the year 2001-2002.

(b) to (d) The Conference deliberated on the strategy for achieving a higher production level during Kharif 2001-2002. It was decided that the States will lay greater emphasis on larger coverage of area under High Yielding Varieties including intensive propagation on hybrid seeds, timely supply of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, regular surveillance of pests and diseases and effective transfer of new technologies developed by the ICAR to the farmers. The Conference also deliberated on the issues relating to WTO, progress made under watershed management, macro management schemes and drought situation. It was also decided to monitor the progress of implementation of programmes more intensively. The Government have been taking several measures through Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops and consequently there is a long term upward trend in production of foodgrain crops as well as fruits and vegetables. In the recent past, in order to step up the pace of growth of agriculture, various new initiatives have been launched such as the Macro Management Scheme, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit,

credit linked subsidy scheme for augmenting storage/cold storage capacity, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Market Information Network etc.

Boost to the Fishery Industry

†2761. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of schemes initiated by the Central Government to boost fishery industry in the country; and

(b) the funds provided to Bihar for development of the fishery industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The following important schemes, *viz.* Development of Marine Fisheries— Motorisation of traditional crafts and Reimbursement of Central Excise duty on HSD Oil; Development of Freshwater Aquaculture; Integrated Coastal Aquaculture, National Welfare of Fishermen; Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Port; and Fisheries Training and Extension, are being implemented for boosting fishery industry in the country.

(b) Funds are released to the States according to their requirements and performance/achievements. However, a sum of Rs. 220.41 lakhs and Rs. 48.54 lakhs has been released to Bihar Government during the years 1997-2001 and 2001-2002, respectively. Utilization Certificates for Rs. 146.08 lakhs are still pending with the Bihar Government as on 1.4.2001.

Amount for Agricultural Development Schemes

2762. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August 2001 and state what special assistance is proposed to be given to Andhra Pradesh which has been sparing no efforts to achieve a breakthrough in agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): No special assistance other than Central assistance being provided under ongoing Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, is presently proposed to be given to Governments of Andhra Pradesh for the Development of agriculture.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.